Unified Access Services Licences of Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata service areas). M/s RIL appealed in the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), however, the appeal was dismissed. M/s RIL paid the penalty of Rs. 150 crores in March, 2005. M/s RIL further filed a Civil Appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the judgement of the TDSAT and the matter is *sub-judice.*

Thus, a suitable action has already been taken by the Government for the violation of license conditions and there is no proposals to revoke the liencse of M/s RIL.

Decline in efficiency of Postal Department

1038. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the efficiency of Postal Department has been deteriorating fast so far as the delivery of mail is concerned as the mail from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh which are connected by overnight mails trains with Delhi and where the mail was normally received the following day, now takes not less than 5 to 6 days for delivery;

(b) whether the Postal Department has looked into reasons for this tardy action;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action proposed by the Department to improve the movement and delivery of mail in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Department of Posts has fixed norms for delivery of mail across the country, and has widely circulated them for information of public. For delivery of mails in a State other than the State where letters are posted, the norms are 3 to 5 days, depending upon the distance involved and transport links. Mail arrangements from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are designed to ensure delivery within these norms in Delhi. The incidents of occasional delay in delivery of mail can be due to any of the reasons like cancellation/late running of trains or State Transport buses carrying mails, missending of mails incomplete and illegible address of the addressee, non-use of PIN code, occasional heavy seasonal workload around Diwali festival etc., non-availability of addressee, change in the residence of the addressee without intimation to the concerned Postmaster etc.

(d) Bringing improvement in transmission and delivery of mail is a continuous process. Following action has been taken from time to time, to improve transmission and delivery of mails:

(i) Regular monitoring of mail routing and delivery by posting Test Letters and Trial Cards.

(ii) Progressive mechanization of delivery by providing mopeds to postman for delivery work in outlying areas of big cities.

(iii) Rationalization/restructuring of delivery with a view to deploy adequate manpower in the expanding urban conglomerations.

(iv) Surprise checks on the delivery of mails by the supervisory staff and officers.

(v) Live Mails Survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to identify weak links and streamline the mail transmission and delivery system.

(vi) Regular co-ordination meetings with Airlines, Railways and State Road Transport Authorities to sort out problems relating to transmission of mails.

(vii) Encouraging pre-sorting of mail by the bulk mailers by providing discount in postage as an incentive, and appropriate pricing to attact more customers.

(viii) Educating the customers on installation of mailboxes on the ground floor of multi-storeyed buildings.

(ix) Preparation of triplicate registered lists in the destination mail offices for bulk mailers to reduce the load on the delivery post office and to speed up delivery of such mail.

(x) To cope up with the seasonal mail, separate centres with adequate manpower are opened to ensure expeditious handling of such mail.

(xi) Innovative use of PIN codes.

(xii) Dedicated delivery staff are engaged in a large number of offices exclusively for Speed Post delivery.

(xiii) Introduction of a freighter aircraft for conveyance of mail in the North East Region.

Spectrum policy

1039. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) have given recommendations on spectrum usages charges;

(b) if so, the complete details of recommendations made by TEC;

(c) whether it is a fact that apart from DoT, several other technical arms of Government including TRAI, Group of Ministers (GoM), TEC, Wireless Wing of DoT and Ministry of Defence are involved in the process of allocation of spectrum to Telecom Operators;

(d) if so, the reasons that inspite of so many departments involved in the exercise no specific guidelines have been framed so far by Government;

(e) whether Government will announce spectrum policy without any further delay; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) has not made any recommendation on the spectrum usage charges.

(c) WPC (Wireless Planning and Coordination) Wing of DoT, is the nodal agency for spectrum management within the country. Other concerned Groups in Government, including TRAI and TEC etc. are consulted appropriately, for ensuring equitable and optimum use of